

- Sub B1
- A1
1. (amended) A method of stabilizing a clayey geological formation surrounding a hydrocarbon well comprising the steps of:  
injecting from a surface reservoir a fluid comprising a first and a second reactant;  
letting said fluid contact said clayey formation; and  
stabilizing said formation by intercalation of the first reactant into galleries of said clayey geological formation and by using a reaction between said first and said second reactant, wherein said reaction is essentially initiated in the presence of said clayey material.
  2. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction comprises a condensation stabilization with or without pH adjustment.

Please add new claims 6 to 10 as follows:

- A2
6. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction comprises a stabilization through epoxide ring opening under neutral or acidic conditions.
  7. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction comprises a substrate in-situ polymerization.
  8. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
allowing intercalation of the second reactant into said galleries.
  9. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said reaction takes place inside the clay galleries.